

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes**  
**11/21/13 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Bob Fujimura and Geir Aasen (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu, Jim Gleim, Kevin Reece, Loi Tran and Mark Bettencourt (DWR), Craig Anderson (FWS), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Owen Lu and RG Fernando (MWD), Eleanor Bartolomeo (SWRCB)

**Sacramento River Fish Monitoring**

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report				
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)**	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) RST (Catch)***	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)****
Date	11/5/13 to 11/18/13	11/14/13 to 11/20/13	11/14/13 to 11/20/13	11/14/13 to 11/20/13
CHNF	33			
CHNLF	12,849	5		
CHNW	194,470	250		
CHNS	10,291			
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not Reported			
SH	351			
Ad-Clipped SH	Not Reported			
GST	Not Reported		Not Reported	Not Reported
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, GST= Green Sturgeon. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

\*\*Overall, there has been a decrease in passage for all reported species at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam since the last reporting period (10/22 to 11/4).

As of 11/18, the brood year 2013 total for winter-run Chinook salmon is at 1,249,821. This brood year total includes the interpolation of missing data from the partial federal government shutdown (10/1 to 10/17) using the data collected between 10/18 and 10/31.

However, FWS is currently not reporting the confidence intervals for the brood year total for any of the reported species in its biweekly report since there is a calculation error in the interpolation method during the period of the partial federal government shutdown. FWS are currently working to fix this issue and the confidence intervals for the brood year totals should be reported soon.

\*\*\*There was not enough gravity-fed water to supply essential water to the refuges. Because of this, one GCID pump was turned on at 8:00 a.m. on 11/18 (Monday). Prior to Monday, the pumps were shut off since 11/1 due to Term 91.

In general, there has been an increase in winter-run Chinook salmon catch at GCID, while catch of late-fall run Chinook salmon remains in a similar range when compared to the last reporting period (11/7 to 11/13).

\*\*\*\*As of 11/20, flow at Wilkins Slough was about 4,590 cfs and water temperature at Knights Landing was at about 57°F.

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at [http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd\\_biweekly.aspx](http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx).

## **Delta Fish Monitoring**

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 11/10/13 to 11/16/13				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNF				
CHNLF				
CHNW				
CHNS	1			
Ad-Clipped CHN				
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				
DSM				
LFS				2 (72 to 91 mm)
SPLT				
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

### **Salvage Monitoring**

As of 11/20, no listed species have been salvaged at the Delta fish facilities during water year 2014.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

### **Smelt Monitoring**

DFW conducted the Fall Midwater Trawl from 11/4 to 11/20. Based on preliminary results, DFW collected two delta smelt at the confluence and two delta smelt at the Sacramento River Deep Water Shipping Channel.

For longfin smelt, DFW collected two at San Pablo Bay, two at Carquinez Strait, one at Suisun Bay, one at Honker Bay, and nine at the confluence.

DFW will not be generating a Fall Midwater Trawl memorandum for November; however, DFW may forward the data from November to DFW management due to the low smelt catch.

For more information about the Fall Midwater Trawl, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=FMWT>.

### **Smelt Working Group**

Leigh Bartoo, the Smelt Working Group representative, was not able to participate in the DAT conference call. However, Bartoo was able to provide an update via email to Edmund Yu (DWR) that was presented to DAT.

In summary, the Smelt Working Group will have its first meeting on Monday, 11/25 at 10:00 a.m. Bartoo does not anticipate having a discussion on the risk of smelt entrainment. Instead, the Smelt Working Group will discuss membership and other planning items. At this time, Bartoo does not know if there will be meeting notes made available to the public.

Lastly, there are no other meetings scheduled at this time and the Smelt Working Group may hold off on scheduling another meeting until the hydrology changes. However, this will probably be discussed during the Monday meeting.

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at [http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt\\_working\\_group.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm).

### **Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group**

DOSS met on Tuesday (11/19), reviewed the usual fish monitoring and operations data, and provided no advice to NMFS or the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT).

During the operations update on DOSS, DWR and Reclamation raised a concern about meeting water quality standards from D-1641 in December once NMFS RPA Action IV.1.2 enters a new phase that calls for the closure of the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates as the default action from 12/1 to 12/14. The rationale behind this phase is that more fish will be passing by the DCC and NMFS would like to keep these fish in the mainstem of the Sacramento River to reduce loss at the Delta fish facilities. However, Action IV.1.2 does include two exceptions during the 12/1 to 12/14 phase of the action:

1. When water quality standards are not being met and the Sacramento Catch Index and Knights Landing Catch Index are <3 fish/day, the DCC may be opened.
2. When water quality standards are not being met and the Sacramento Catch Index and Knights Landing Catch Index are >3 fish/day, DOSS reviews monitoring data and makes a recommendation to WOMT.

Based on water quality concerns, DWR and Reclamation would like the flexibility for the water quality exceptions in Action IV.1.2 to apply when water quality is approaching the standards and not just when the standards are exceeded. DOSS suggested that a WOMT meeting be convened to discuss the concerns about meeting water quality standards in December. WOMT did end up meeting on Tuesday afternoon, but the issue is still under discussion. Some water quality modeling is currently being done to see how close DWR and Reclamation will come to exceeding a water quality standard in December. However, you cannot forecast fish presence.

At the time of the DOSS meeting, the RPA implementation update was as follows:

#### **RPA Actions:**

- IV.1.1: No alerts tripped in the past week.
- IV.1.2: No triggers exceeded in the past week.
- IV.3: No triggers exceeded in the past week.

Yesterday, 11/20, the first alert in Action IV.1.1 was triggered by a mean daily flow in Deer Creek of 134 cfs. Mill Creek flow provisionally tripped components of the first alert, but the full 24-hour record of flow data is not available on 11/19 or 11/20 at the Mill Creek gage (see table below). The first alert is used to warn of spring-run Chinook salmon presence in the system and provides an early warning that DCC gate operations might need to be changed soon. There is no particular action response required for triggering an alert.

	<b>First component of first alert:</b> Mean daily flows greater than 110 cfs in Deer Creek or Mill Creek.	<b>Second component of the first alert:</b> Mean daily flow increases by more than 50 percent in Deer Creek or Mill Creek.
Watershed	Mean daily flows on 11/20/13	% increase in flow from 11/19/13 to 11/20/13
Deer Creek***	134 cfs	46%
Mill Creek***	145 cfs*	57%**

\*Data missing from 0:00 to 10:45 on 11/20.

\*\* Data missing from 0:00 to 1:45, 9:00 to 23:45 on 11/19 and from 0:00 to 10:45 on 11/20.

\*\*\*Mill and Deer Creek are tributaries of the Sacramento River and are located between Red Bluff and Chico.

DOSS notes are posted at  
[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central\\_valley/water\\_operations/doss.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html).

## **Operations**

<b>Preliminary Summary for 11/21/13</b>			
<b>State Water Project (SWP)</b>		<b>Central Valley Project (CVP)</b>	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,500 (Will drop down to 1,200 cfs on 11/22)	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1,000
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	226	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	282
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	508	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,300
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,250	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,750
		Stanislaus – Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	250 (Will be down to 200 cfs on 11/22)
<b>DELTA OPERATIONS</b>			
Outflow (cfs)	~11,100 (Due to recent precipitation)	DCC Gates	Closed (Will open on 11/22 and close again on 11/25 for the Rio Vista flow standard from D-1641)
X2 (km)	> 81		
Export/Inflow (%)	30.9 (3-day average)		

*Weather Forecast:* Recent information has indicated a dry forecast by today (11/21) and through the weekend. There was some incremental precipitation at the Stockton Fire Station gage from yesterday (0.64 inches) and the day before (0.32 inches). This has contributed to some additional outflow and has helped with the Freeport flow. Freeport flow is around 8,500 cfs today (11/21) and is projected to be around 9,000 cfs by tomorrow (11/22).

*Clifton Court Inflow:* There was some confusion on why Clifton Court inflow is decreasing tomorrow if the Outflow standards from D-1641 are being met. Loi Tran (DWR) responded that this is due to water quality concerns. DWR wanted to keep some of the higher outflow to prevent salt intrusion. For instance, daily electrical conductivity (EC) at Jersey Point has been gradually increasing. Daily EC was at 1.94 mS/cm on 11/18, 2.04 mS/cm on 11/19, and 2.16 mS/cm on 11/20.

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at  
<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

**Next Conference Call:** The next DAT conference call is scheduled on 12/5 at 11:00 a.m. There will be no DAT conference call next week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. In absence of a call, agency representatives will send out e-mail updates if there are any interesting trends related to fish monitoring or major changes to operations.